

Serial No.: 10/748,487
Group Art Unit: 2616

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 14-26 are now pending in this application, with Claims 1, 12 and 23 being independent claims. Claim 13 was previously canceled. Claims 1, 3, 18, 19 and 23 are currently amended.

In The Claims

In the office action, claim 3 was rejected under 35 USC section 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, claim 3 recited "the group". The Examiner set forth that there was insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation. Applicants have amended claim 3, and assert that claim 3 as now presented overcomes this rejection.

In the office action, claims 18, 19, 20 and 21 were objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form as dependent on cancelled claim 13. Applicants have amended these claims to depend either directly or indirectly from pending claim 12. Applicants respectfully assert that these claims overcome this objection.

In the office action, independent Claims 1 and 12 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Li et al., US Patent No. 6,567,408, ("Li"). Applicants have amended independent claim 1 and respectfully assert that Claim 1 as now presented and claim 12 as previously presented are not anticipated by Li.

In particular, Claim 1 includes the element of "generating *with a string generator* a first string and a second string with which to characterize the PDU" (emphasis added), while Claim 12 includes the element "*a string generator* for generating a first string and a second string with which to characterize the PDU" (emphasis added).

In the present office action, the Examiner sets forth that Li "shows a string generator for generating a first string (src) and a second string (dst)...(Col. 10 line 27)" (Office action, page 5, paragraph 5). Applicants respectfully traverse this assertion that a "string generator" is disclosed. In particular, in Li, the strings (src) and (dst) are not generated by a "string generator", but rather are merely part of a signature that is extracted from a data packet that arrives at ESP 24 (Li, column 9, lines 37-41).

Serial No.: 10/748,487
Group Art Unit: 2616

As each and every element of the present invention is not disclosed in Li, Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 1 and 12 are patentable over the cited references. Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn.

In the office action, independent Claim 23 was rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Yazaki et al., US Patent No. 6,768,738, ("Yazaki"). Applicants have amended claim 23 to include the limitations of "(a) generating *with a string generator* a first string from source information associated with the PDU; (b) generating *with the string generator* a second string from destination information associated with the PDU". Applicants respectfully assert that Claim 23 as now presented and in particular these above cited limitations are not taught, disclosed, or rendered obvious by Yazaki or any of the cited references whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejections of Claims 2-11, as these claims depend either directly or indirectly from independent Claim 1, and therefore incorporate all the limitations therein, for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent Claim 1, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are also patentable over the cited references.

Regarding the rejections of Claims 14-22, as these claims depend either directly or indirectly from independent Claim 12, and therefore incorporate all the limitations therein, for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent Claim 12, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are also patentable over the cited references.

Regarding the rejections of Claims 24-26, as these claims depend either directly or indirectly from independent Claim 23, and therefore incorporate all the limitations therein, for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent Claim 23, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are also patentable over the cited references.

Serial No.: 10/748,487
Group Art Unit: 2616

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, the previous amendments and remarks place the Application in condition for allowance. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of the claims be withdrawn and full allowance granted. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, please contact the undersigned attorney at 512-306-8533.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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